

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DURHAM, NC A BEE CITY USA

WHEREAS, the goal of BEE CITY USA is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for honeybees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the tremendous diversity of honey and native bees and other pollinators we have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, honey and native bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with grave implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, communities have the opportunity to support honey and native bees and other pollinators on both public and private land; and

WHEREAS, supporting honey and native bees and other pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards such as commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers, children, educators, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities, neighborhoods, and garden suppliers and clubs; and

WHEREAS, the goals of BEE CITY USA are consistent with the City's Strategic Plan, which seeks to protect natural resources by limiting the environmental impact of city operations and fostering community partnerships; and

WHEREAS, ideal honey and native bee and other pollinator-friendly habitat:

- provides diverse and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession;
- provides clean water for drinking, nest-building, cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling;
- is pesticide-free or has pesticide use carried out with least ill effects on pollinators;
- is comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses because many native pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-evolved;
- includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness; and
- provides undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that honey and native bees and other pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the City of Durham, NC agrees to meet the commitments required of all BEE CITY USA communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF DURHAM, NC THAT:

Section 1. The CITY OF DURHAM, NC accepts the designation and agrees to the commitments of BEE CITY USA.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective on and after its passage.